



Gulf Coast Fair Housing Center
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News Release

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The Gulf Coast Fair Housing Center Receives Grant to Fund Investigations of Housing Discrimination

The Gulf Coast Fair Housing Center has been awarded a \$35,000 grant by the Mississippi Bar Foundation. Grants totaling \$3,000,000 have been awarded this year through the Mississippi Interest on Lawyers Trust Account Program.

The Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts (IOLTA) program was established by Order of the Mississippi Supreme Court as a source of funding to provide legal aid to the poor; to provide law related public education programs to the public and to improve the administration of justice.

In 2004, the Gulf Coast Fair Housing Center (GCFHC), conducted an audit of rental housing across the Mississippi Gulf Coast and discovered African-Americans were subjected to illegal discrimination 70% of the time when applying for housing. The funding provided by the Mississippi Bar Foundation will allow GCFHC to determine if this high level of discrimination is still present. GCFHC advises anyone who feels they have been a victim of housing discrimination to contact us immediately. To learn more about housing discrimination visit, www.makeitfair.com.

Charmel Gaulden, Esq., Executive Director, Gulf Coast Fair Housing Center(GCFHC), stated “As the Mississippi Gulf Coast rebuilds housing, the Gulf Coast Fair Housing Center is working to ensure everyone has access to housing with consideration of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, disability or whether the family has children. Without the funding of the Mississippi Bar Foundation and support Mississippi Supreme Court, GCFHC would be unable to continue providing its current high level of service.

Since its inception in 1984 the IOLTA program has awarded over \$10 million in grants. For more information, on the Mississippi Bar Foundation or the ILOTA program visit www.msbar.org.

The Gulf Coast Fair Housing Center (GCFHC) is a private non-profit organization. GCFHC was established by a group of concerned Gulf Coast citizens in 2003 with the help of the National Fair Housing Alliance. GCFHC is dedicated to eliminating housing discrimination and furthering equal housing opportunities through education, outreach, advocacy, and enforcement of fair housing laws across the Mississippi Gulf Coast.